



HOPE CHURCH NEWS

"...A living hope..." I Peter 1:3

Volume 62, No. 5

May 2019

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Inserts:

- *May Calendar*
- *Lectionary*
- *Restorative Circle
Facilitator List*

The deadline for the
June/July/August
newsletter is **Monday,**
May 13.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday:
9:00am - 5:00pm

Friday: Closed

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Explore Family Promise: Address Homelessness

Lois Maassen, Community Ministry Chair

Over the past year, Community Ministry has been seeking out opportunities for Hope Church to make a difference for those experiencing homelessness. Affordable housing is a big issue in our community, and it's challenging to find a way to make a difference. We've investigated one organization and program, though, that appears to offer an opportunity on a scale that's both possible and life-changing.

Family Promise is a national organization that works with churches to offer overnight accommodations for families who are without housing. For a week each quarter, one of 13 churches in a community offers hospitality, including dinner, space for activities, and a place to sleep. Welcoming families is especially important because shelters are often segregated by gender, which means that families are split apart. The program can't begin in Holland until 13 churches sign on, which is anticipated to be no earlier than fall.

Community Ministry has done enough research to feel confident about the program. The critical question is whether Hope Church members would be willing to be engaged, hosting dinners and providing other hospitality in our facility. **We've planned an informational meeting on Sunday, June 2 at 11:15;** we'll hear both from a leader of the organization and from Grand Rapids members who have experiences to share and can answer questions.

Intrigued? Mark your calendar now for June 2, and join us to learn more.

Provide Hope through the Deacons' Fund

Board of Deacons

The Board of Deacons asks that you remember the Deacons' Fund, whether or not you use offering envelopes (if you do, this is the yellow one that appears every few months). The Deacons' Fund is what equips the pastors and staff, with oversight from the senior deacon and financial administrator, to offer immediate, short-term relief when members of our congregation or community don't have other resources.

It's this fund that purchased supplies during our Polar Vortex hospitality, for example; it can also pay for gas and groceries, car repairs, rental or utility assistance, medical or dental expenses, and more, because we expect the unexpected. The fund is not budgeted, but supported through designated giving.

Wondering how you can help others in our community? Use a yellow envelope or write a check with "Deacons' Fund" in the memo line. You'll be extending a hand to someone in crisis.

Hope Church Welcomes New Members

These new members were welcomed into the fellowship of Hope Church on April 14 during the 11 a.m. worship service. Please take the time to welcome these individuals into the family of Hope Church.

Jennie & Jason VanderLugt



Jennie and Jason VanderLugt come from Engedi Church and join by reaffirmation of faith. They are high school sweethearts who grew up in Wyoming, MI. Jason has a bachelors and medical degree from the University of Oklahoma. He is currently a pediatrician at Holland Hospital. Jennie has a bachelors in music education from Hope College and a masters in music education from the University of Oklahoma. She has mostly stopped teaching (aside from the occasional gig here and there) to stay home to write for GRKIDS.com and to watch their two sons, Boone (8) and Jonah (4). Boone is in 3rd grade at Waukazoo Elementary and Jonah is in preschool at Lakeside Montessori. Boone and Jonah love to play with their furry family member, Jiminy Cricket the cocker spaniel.

Dave & Char Alexander



Dave and Char Alexander join by transfer, Char from Rehoboth Reformed Church of McBain, MI and Dave from Park Hills Community Reformed Church in Los Angeles, CA. They recently moved to Holland to retire after careers as Reformed Church in America missionaries in Taiwan, where they met in 1976. Char grew up in various parsonages in MI, IA, and CA and is a 1975 graduate of Hope College. Dave is a US Army veteran. Returning from Vietnam, he began his college education at Pierce College in Los Angeles and went on to get Masters degrees from Rutgers University and New Brunswick Theological Seminary. As a couple, they enjoy walking and reading. Char continues to keep up with her former students in Taiwan through social media and spends quality time with her mom and sister who both live in Holland. Dave listens to Bruce Springsteen music while futzing around in the garage.

Funeral Receptions

Kyle Vohlken, Funeral Reception Group Leader

There's an opportunity for volunteers that may be "off the radar" for many of our Hope Church members – the Funeral Reception. Friends and members who choose to have a Funeral or Memorial Service at Hope Church often request a reception of some sort before or after the service. This is a nice way to meet and greet guests, and a convenient way for those wishing to express sympathy in person. Receptions can be large or small, an elaborate luncheon, or simply coffee and cookies; the family decides. This is where the volunteers become crucial to ensure a smooth day for the family. Volunteers, sometimes in tandem with the funeral home, set up the commons or gathering area, dress the tables as needed, set up tables for refreshments, welcome guests, and circulate with coffee!

Hospitality and caring for others are the most important aspects of volunteering for the Funeral Reception. Aside from caring for our own church family, many people who have never been to Hope Church often attend our Funeral or Memorial Services. The volunteers become the "face" of Hope Church, and it's the perfect opportunity to show newcomers who we are.

Aside from volunteers, we could also use another individual to help "co-coordinate". This basically means recruiting volunteers for specific dates, and guiding the activities on the day of the service. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please let the office know and we'll put your name on the list of those to call when the need arises.

Adult Education: April

Classes meet in Commons I on Sundays from 9:40 to 10:45am. They are free and are open to young people and adults.

May 5: The Creation Care Ministry will be offering a review of the Climate Change issue. The presentation will first cover the science and implications of climate change and then consider ways of responding.

May 12 & 19: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Classes will explore the implications for our life together behind some sobering statistics:

- About 1 in 5 adults (18.5 percent) in the U.S. experiences a mental illness in a given year.
- About 1 in 5 youth (21.4 percent) aged 13–18 experiences a severe mental disorder; for children aged 8–15, the estimate is 13 percent.

According to a 2017 youth assessment survey of 11th-grade students in Ottawa County, during the past 12 months:

- 20 percent seriously thought about attempting suicide.
- 15 percent made a plan to attempt suicide.
- Nearly 10 percent attempted suicide more than one time.

On May 12, Terry DeYoung and Sam and Jean Martin will discuss the connections of mental illnesses and stigma to suicide, a faith perspective on life and suicide, and what happens when suicide hits home.

On May 19, Todd Kamstra and Jeff Elhart will review community supports for mental health and suicide prevention, the “be nice” initiative, and how churches and individuals can engage.

Terry DeYoung is a Hope Church member who serves as coordinator for disability concerns for the Reformed Church in America. Sam and Jean Martin are longtime Hope Church members whose son Chris died by suicide 19 years ago at the age of 15, following a relatively short but severe bout of depression. Hope Church member Todd Kamstra is a be nice advocate and leader at Zeeland Public Schools, working with young people and their families to implement mental illness awareness and suicide prevention education. Jeff Elhart serves as board chair of the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan (creator of “be nice”); executive board member of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (a public/private collaboration); founder and donor advisor of the Wayne Elhart be nice. Memorial Funds in Ottawa, Muskegon, and Oceana Counties; and general advocate and speaker on the topic.

Cranhill Ranch Camping: July 19-21

Joyce Teusink, Fellowship Ministry Chair

Hope Church has reserved the **Cranhill Ranch Retreat Center and Camping Area for July 19-21, 2019!** We have 20 rooms/sites that are reserved, but we have room for more if anyone is interested in joining us!

If you’re not sure about the “camping” aspect of the weekend, they also have a wonderful Retreat Center with plenty of bunkbeds and bathrooms not far from your rooms!

Arrival is on Friday, the 19th, after 4pm. After checking in, many campers sign up for activities on Saturday. They have horseback riding, trail rides, tubing, canoeing, hayrides, swimming and other events. For some of these items there is a cost involved which campers are responsible for. We ask that each camper (or family unit) pays \$40.00 which helps to offset the cost of camping for the weekend. Hope Church covers the rest of the cost. It includes two nights of camping (or the lodge), smores, and hotdogs and chips for supper on Saturday night. Saturday night meal is a potluck (sides to go with the hotdogs). You provide your own meal for Friday night, Saturday breakfast & lunch, and Sunday morning. They have refrigeration in the lodge if you need to keep food there. Checkout is on Sunday at 2pm.

It’s a great way to meet other folks from Hope Church! We have a service on Sunday morning led by one of our pastors.

If you might be interested in joining us for a weekend at Cranhill Ranch, or if you have further questions, contact Joyce Teusink.

ministry/committee HIGHLIGHT

This series of highlights on ministries/committees at Hope Church is intended to be sure our members are aware of how things happen and their opportunities to engage.

Outreach and Hospitality Ministry

Dee Dee Piers, Outreach & Hospitality Ministry co-chair

This past year we focused on evaluating what we are doing and how we can more effectively align with our mission.

Mentoring Ministry

One goal became enriching our Mentoring Ministry (previously called Sponsorship of New Members), which was accomplished by finding people (Guides) interested in making the transition into Hope Church as seamless as possible.

Each "Guide" walks beside several members (as opposed to the one-on-one "sponsor" system), to welcome and acclimate them to the many activities of our church family. We hope to get enough people in the "Guide" pool so each person will have only one mentoring role per year.

If you enjoy meeting new people and helping others, you are perfect for this Mentoring Ministry! Please see one of the ministry members listed below if you are interested in learning more.

Engaging One Another

"Second Sunday Snacks", which support one of the guiding themes of our ministry: "to work within the church to foster a sense of warmth, openness, and hospitality that will enrich the life of the church and promote interaction between members and visitors", have been enthusiastically received! Besides giving congregants another place to engage with one another, it was also our wish to create a space where visitors and new members are also comfortable.

As you enjoy this opportunity for fellowship, please be on the look out for and welcome people you may not know.

Room for All

Outreach & Hospitality supports the Holland Pride Festival, which will take place June 21-22, in Centennial Park, and also the LGBTQ (GLOBE) students on Hope's campus by supplying snacks for their meetings.

If you would be willing to provide a snack, please contact the church office. Students are incredibly grateful for this gesture of kindness.

Other Ministry Tasks & Responsibilities

We also plan and coordinate Orientation to Hope Church Classes, New Member and Confirmation Receptions, Sunday Greeters, the Welcome Desk, and we support the Fellowship Ministry.

Comments, suggestions, ideas and new members are welcome!

Ministry members include Al Bradfield, Sue Hondorp, Jean Martin, Dee Dee Piers (co-chair), Wendy Rebhan (co-chair), and Lori VanDoornik. Supporting members include Trish Gosselar, Audrienne Hill, Kyle Volken and Sara Wilson. Staff support is provided by Pastor Jill Russell and Jocelyn VanHeest.

The next Ministry/Committee Highlight will feature the Fellowship Ministry.

Children's Ministry

Jocelyn Van Heest, Children's Ministry Director

Church School/ Children in Worship

May 19th is the last Sunday for Church School and Children in Worship. The following week, May 26, children ages 3 through those who have completed 2nd grade will be meeting together in Room 204, upstairs in the Education Wing, when they are released from the 10 a.m. service. The Children in Worship leaders and the children all had a wonderful year worshipping together.

Appreciation Reception, June 2

The Christian Education Ministry invites everyone to the Appreciation reception for our Children in Worship leaders, Church School teachers, music leaders, and youth leaders. The reception will take place after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, June 2nd. This time is a time to extend

our sincere thanks to those who have taught and led our adults, youth and children with a creative, faithful and willing spirit. All leaders, teachers and music leaders will be honored for their service to Hope Church. Hope Church values our educational opportunities and we ask everyone to stay for this short reception to share in the celebration.

Notes of Appreciation

One way to show our thanks is to sign or write a short note on the banner that is available in the Gathering Area on the Sundays prior to the reception. Please spend a few minutes to show your support and appreciation. You will find a listing of all the Children in Worship leaders, Church School teachers, music leaders, and youth leaders and you may write a word of

appreciation to them individually or as a whole. Of course, you may thank them in person at the reception or send a personal note to them as well.

Children's Offering

Our children dedicated their offerings to purchasing a share of fresh food for distribution to people in the community who would otherwise not have good access to the great nutritious value of locally grown food. The children learned how important it is to share our gifts with others and how even small gifts may have a large impact on the lives of others. Thanks for your help, children, in remembering to share what you have been given with others.

Youth Ministry

Beth Carroll, Assistant Pastor of Discipleship

By the time you have read this, you will likely have just enjoyed watching our youths lead us in worship for Youth Sunday. For this particular Sunday each year, the youths and pastors spend about a month preparing and reflecting on the lectionary texts, laying the groundwork for the theme and direction that arises for that day. It is a Sunday not only of creativity and fun, but a day that spotlights our youths and their talents.

Why is this day important? While it is only one day of the year, I think Youth Sunday is important for both the youth and the older adults. For the youth, it allows them the opportunity to engage our lectionary texts with a lot of depth and curiosity. Scripture is not just another text they are taught, or a subject used as a lecture, as if the youth were at school. Youth Sunday preparation starts with the

assumption that God's spirit speaks to the greater church through them. This is a process that allows them to begin seeing themselves as leaders, not just as people to be led. As leaders, they grow in confidence in being part of the service. They learn if reading or sharing aloud is something they can see themselves doing on Sundays, and they grow in confidence with an expectation that God speaks to them through scripture, not just through pastors, teachers and parents.

There are gifts for the greater body through our youth's leadership as well. Just as our youths need to see themselves as conduits for God's teaching to the greater body, older adults need to see them through this lens as well. Youths are not just people for us to steward, they are stewards of God's spirit for us. They have gifts that edify the church today, not only when

they get older. The more we listen to and empower them as leaders, the more all of us grow in spiritual maturity.

Many of you are already great encouragers of our youth and this is great! If you see them contribute to our church, be it up front on a Sunday, or volunteering for activities like helping in the nursery, children in worship, or the Think Hope Auction, make sure to thank them and let them know how this specifically helps our church. If you don't yet know them by name, this is also a great opportunity to introduce yourself. They need to feel seen and letting them know they matter and introducing yourselves to them goes a long way in helping them feel connected. Thank you for all the ways you support and empower the youth at Hope Church.

Poetry Corner

hosted by Randy Smit and Rhonda Edgington

We all know Lois Maassen as someone who wears many hats at Hope Church and beyond. (I won't even begin to name them, because I would inevitably miss some important things!) I know her as a person who loves the written word, and so I was pleased when she agreed to be a part of this collection of folks who love reading and writing. I especially appreciate her affirmation here that while so many of us can be intimidated by poetry, poetry is not reserved for those with degrees or special knowledge - it can be found everywhere, and is open to all. Lois invites us to view the world around us this month with the eyes of a poet! ~Rhonda (for R&R)

Seeing the Poetry in Life

As a writer and a reader, I'm more often drawn to prose than poetry. Somehow the stakes seem lower. Poetry too often seems a luxury that requires time, which is often in short supply these days, as well as a lot of magic (also known as hard work). A review in *The Paris Review* challenged that assumption last month, for which I'm grateful.

The review is of James Tate's upcoming (though posthumous) collection, *The Government Lake*. The conclusion of a poem titled "The Argonaut" is quoted:

I sad down in a garden. A woman came along and sat
down beside me. She said, "Nice day, isn't it?" I said, "Yes, very,
I like it." "What do you do for a living?" she said. "I'm an accountant
in the government," I said. "That must be nice," she said. "But most
people I know think I'm a Communist," I said. "That's a joke, right?"
she said. "To me it is," I said. "To me, you look more like an
Argonaut," she said. "What's an Argonaut?" I said. "It's somebody
who swims in the deep waters of the ocean in search of treasure," she
said. "I found a penny in my bathtub once when I was a kid," I said.
"Then you're an Argonaut," she said.

What I love about this snippet of poem is its celebration of the mundane, its conversational, un-precious tone. It prompts me, somehow, to consider that "poetry" is not confined within "poems." Poetry is everywhere there is insight, beauty, feeling. It's a matter of seeing and feeling, and it can be recognized in an instant.

In the spirit of seeing, here's a poem I wrote about an interaction with a stranger.

Morning ~ by Lois Maassen

She's dressed in white, a baker, not a nurse.
She's a mushroom, sprung up on a wet overnight,
established on the park bench by morning.
She pages through her newspaper, glancing up at every passerby.
She sees me watching from my balcony.
The newspaper pages turn themselves.
One hand smooths her hair from its side part.
Her chin sets.
She glances at me without lifting her head.
I look away.
She subsides into the bench, the newspaper, into her lap.
Folding the newspaper, she stands;
her cardigan holds her image on the bench.
She drapes the sweater over her arm, newspaper in her hand.
She turns east, into the sun.
She looks at me just once, over her shoulder.

You Must Remember This....

....As Time Goes By

Peter Boogaart, Caring for Creation Co-coordinator

Judi and I have just returned from a trip to the Great Smoky Mountains. The name is honest—their appearance is smoky. There's a scientific explanation for this, but I'm not going to share it; I prefer the wonder of it all.

The mountains are the progeny of an old relationship. Two continents embraced—millennia ago—and they squeezed each other so hard that the mountains popped up. The two lovers have long since drifted apart, and eons of snow and rain whittled the mountains down. The Smokies used to be the redwood of mountains; today—think maybe oak.

I was in the Smokies once before. My father took us on a camping trip. I remember looking down from our ridge to see a man teasing a bear below. We could see her cubs in a tree. When he threw one stone too many she turned and charged him. This was my introduction to Olympic speed; I've never seen a human being run faster. Bears and men—another old story.

The mountains have also been whittled down by occupation. Pigeon Forge is a six-lane boulevard. Busy? Yes! Traffic can lock up all the way to Gatlinburg. Mountains are begrudging; there isn't much room for building. Pigeon Forge lays out like a ribbon of toothpaste squeezed from a tube—miles and miles of chain restaurants, amusement parks, tee-shirt shops, and motels.

In the Biblical narrative, the wonder of creation is portrayed as compromised. The original relationship with God having been broken, systems degrade in every conceivable way—marriage, family, culture, and ultimately the natural world itself. All is lost, except for the muted counter story of God's presence. God the Creator is still here.

I wondered about these things as I traveled the boulevard being offered every conceivable recipe for pizza. And who needs that many tee-shirts? As I walked the mountain trails, I wondered: who leaves trash in a

place like this? I wondered why they all came, thousands of people all coming to the Smokies at the same time. Why? Commercial food, glitzy entertainment, and plastic trinkets are available anywhere. Why come here? For that?

The answer is the mountains; their pull is intuitive. We need to draw near, even if we don't know why. We approach even for a cheapened experience. The mountains measure us. Here we are just a part of creation, and somehow being smaller is satisfying. The Biblical narrative never questions God's presence. The real question is the same for us as it was for Bartimaeus: can you see it, or are you blind?

And if you do see it, how will you live now? What role will you play in God's work of re-creation? There's room for you. The world desperately needs people who, in the face of collapse, can still love. You'll be welcomed. The world will always welcome lovers, as time goes by.

Listening...How Good Are You At It?

Ginger Clark, R.N., Hope Church Nurse

Amid my parish nurse experiences, I have been prompted in many ways to pay more attention to the skill and gift of listening. I heard about generous listening in early worship, discussed compassionate listening with Congregational Care and Health Ministry, witnessed examples of it at REST support group and have had many personal situations to tend to this skill.

Listening is something every one of us can do to help friends, family, colleagues and even strangers. We can help people empty their heart. Practicing the gift of listening gives the other person a chance to suffer less, to express themselves, feel valued,

accepted and understood. Listening is an accepting and non-judgmental invitation for others to be themselves, without any worry about disapproval. It helps people release their emotions not suppress them.

Compassionate, active listening is more than just hearing what is being said. The goal is to understand the feelings and views of the other person. This can help nurture a strong relationship and can be very healing. It can allow someone to move in a positive direction.

Listening requires emotional strength, patience, openness and a real desire to understand. Don't

try to fix the problem or give advice unless specifically asked. When we're hurting we need empathy, not advice. Be patient and don't get frustrated if someone can't say what they feel right away. Silence and patience help people give voice to their feelings.

"Listen with curiosity. Speak with honesty. Act with integrity. The greatest problem with communication is we don't listen to understand. We listen to reply. When we listen with curiosity, we don't listen with the intent to reply. We listen for what's behind the words." by Roy T. Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*

Events and Announcements

Women's Circle Meetings

Circle 1 will meet May 1, at 9:30 am in Commons 2 at Hope Church.

Circle 2 will meet in Commons 2 on Wednesday, May 1 at 1:30 pm.

Circle 4 will meet on Wednesday, May 8 at 7 pm at Jan Fike's home.

Coffee Time at Freedom Village

This is a caring outreach and fellowship opportunity for residents and their friends at different locations to meet with the pastors and other congregation members and staff. The next Coffee Time will be at Freedom Village on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendar, and come for an hour, all are welcome!

Hope Church Readers

Hope Church Readers will meet on Wednesday, May 15th, at 1:00pm in Commons 2. We will be discussing the book, Paris in the Present Tense by Mark Helprin. Our discussion leader will be Jean McFadden, and our hostesses will be Joan Wenke and Anna Mae VanderWoude. New members are always welcome!

May Pizza Sunday

The next Pizza Sunday is scheduled for May 19 (note that it is not the last Sunday of the month).

Summer Worship Times

On **Sunday, May 26**, the summer worship time will change to **10:00 a.m.** Early Worship will go on summer hiatus and will resume in the fall. There will be no Church School hour, but children ages 3 through completion of second grade will meet in Room 204 after they are dismissed from the 10:00 a.m. service.

Church Office Closed: May 27

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

Tulip Time Parking Lot Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to help staff the Hope Church parking lot on three different days during Tulip Time, on which we will be collecting a \$5 fee for parking. Proceeds will go towards reducing mortgage expenses for our completed church renovations. Please sign up in the gathering area if you are able to help out during one of time slots listed on the sign-up sheet on May 4, 8, or 9.

Attention Graduates!

Please email office@hopechurchca.org with details of graduation from high school, college, or graduate school. If you know your future plans, please include those. We will recognize our graduates at a later date in a Sunday worship bulletin.

Summit on Race & Inclusion

Registration is open for the June 11, 2019, Summit on Race and Inclusion, "Commitment to Justice." The event will be held from 8 am to 4 pm at Hope College. Registration fee is \$85. To register for the Summit online, please visit www.ethnicdiversity.org. Because Hope Church is a sponsor of this event, there are 2 free scholarship codes available. Please contact the office if you would like to use one.

Sign Up for Email Giving Statements

Opt in to receive your Hope Church giving statements by email instead of by mail! All you need to do is fill out the online form with your name and the email address you'd like the statements emailed to by going online to: <https://tinyurl.com/emailgiving>.

Organ Recital May 19

The Holland chapter of the American Guild of Organists will hold a Member's and Friend's recital on Sunday, May 19 at 5pm at Second Reformed Church in Zeeland. Rhonda Edgington and other area organists will be performing on the newly renovated organ at Second Reformed. All are invited to bring organ-loving friends to this free concert, followed by a reception to celebrate the new instrument.

Tulip Time Organ Concert at Hope Church

Rhonda Edgington, Associate Director of Music and Organist

For the third year in a row, Rhonda Edgington will be playing an organ concert during the first weekend of Tulip Time, on Sunday, May 5 at 7:00pm. This year's theme is "From the Oude Kerk to Playing it Cool!" - referring to both the famous Dutch composer and organist of Amsterdam's Oude Kerk, Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck as well as works by living Dutch composers, such as Ad Wammes' piece from 2012 titled Playing it Cool! The program will involve organ music from the Netherlands from Sweelinck's era (the 16th century) to modern composers.

As in previous years, this is a ticketed event - you can purchase your \$15 tickets either at the door, or online at <https://www.tuliptime.com/events/dutch-organ>. Local performer Genevieve Beaulieu will be joining the program for a set of pieces based on Dutch hymn tunes, for organ and bassoon. Rhonda also promises this year to appear in Dutch costume!

Take a break from eating elephant ears and hiding at home, avoiding the tourists to hear a concert of organ music.

Wisdom of the Wounded

Karen Mulder, Hope Church member



The word of God speaks to the fact that we are all wounded and broken. It is also true that every one of us is tasked with encouraging and supporting those who are hurting. Yet very few of us feel confident to do so.

Wisdom of the Wounded is a perspective on how to support those who are hurting with love.

It has been Karen Mulder's passion to listen. To listen and give time and space to those who are suffering, those who have suffered and those who desire to offer their support and care. Wisdom of the Wounded is a place. A place where this perspective can be shared.

To be able to meet someone in their suffering is challenging – to know what to say to them and to know how to be present with them in it. It is a gift to be in a position to care for someone. Through Wisdom of the Wounded, Karen Mulder is a guide to help you with this gift.

Visit WisdomoftheWounded.com for information and stories from individuals who have been wounded which will help you become a more compassionate and caring friend.

BIRTHDAYS

If you are 75+ years old and would like to be listed in the birthday column, please contact the church office at (616) 392-7947 or office@hopechurchrca.org

Summer 2019 Preaching Schedule

For the past nine summers, the consistory approved an adjusted summer preaching schedule that would provide our pastors some increased workload flexibility for the summer. Adjusting the schedule gave our pastors the time and space for reading, planning for the coming program year, professional exploration and growth as well as accommodating the impact on pastors' schedules when two pastors are engaged in two different week long youth trips. In addition, it gave Hope Church the unique opportunity to invite guest preachers who brought to our congregation a range of diverse voices. With the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the consistory has approved a similar preaching schedule for the summer of 2019. We are pleased to share that preaching schedule with you.

JUNE

- 2** Mary VanAndel, Retired Presbyterian Minister
- 9** Micah McCreary, President of New Brunswick Theological Seminary
- 16** Justin Myers, RCA Missionary to Oman
- 23** Pastor Jill Russell, Hope Church Co-Pastor
- 30** Pastor Gordon Wiersma, Hope Church Co-Pastor

JULY

- 7** Pastor Gordon Wiersma, Hope Church Co-Pastor
- 14** Pastor Beth Carroll, Hope Church Assistant Pastor of Discipleship
- 21** Marc Nelesen, Pastor of Congregational Life at Georgetown CRC
- 28** Pastor Jill Russell, Hope Church Co-Pastor

AUGUST

- 4** Jeff Japinga, Executive Presbyter of the Twin Cities Area
- 11** Pastor Jill Russell, Hope Church Co-Pastor
- 18** Pastor Gordon Wiersma, Hope Church Co-Pastor
- 25** Beverly Zell, Retired United Church of Christ Minister

SEPTEMBER

- 1** Pastor Beth Carroll, Hope Church Assistant Pastor of Discipleship

Kids Hope

Vicki Rumpsa, Kids Hope USA Director



Last night I attended a panel discussion on ACEs or Adverse Childhood Experiences. I was interested in this because I am well aware that many of our Kids Hope children are affected by these. The three types of ACE's include Abuse, Neglect and Household Dysfunction. The students that are referred to our program could be experiencing emotional abuse or suffer from physical neglect like lack of sleep. Some students are dealing with divorce or the challenges of a family member who is incarcerated or a victim of substance abuse. These ACE's or adverse childhood experiences are common, they rarely occur in isolation and they do cause health, social and learning problems. The earlier they occur in a child's life the more effect they have on the brain and that is one

reason kids fall behind in academics and struggle to read. This has lifelong effects which can result in dropping out of school, suicide, and other mental health problems.

Why am I telling you this? It is because the Kids Hope Program can help mitigate some of these results. It does that by providing another relationship that is encouraging, supportive and consistent. The chronic stress that many of these kids suffer from needs an outlet for their fears, lack of self worth and struggles with school and other social situations. Our mentors provide a relationship that is there for them on a regular basis, a voice that tells them that they are worth something, someone to read to or with them and a helper with their homework as well as a guide to help them navigate social situations.

But there's more and this is where YOU come in. Kids Hope is backed up by your prayers. We not only count on our Prayer Partners but also on all the prayers of our congregation. Kids Hope USA has proven results that prayer does make a difference in outcomes for these children. You also support Kids Hope by your tithing. Each church and school connection cost money to run and without this being in our budget we could not provide these services. And then there's your time. Whether you have been a mentor in the past or are serving as one now, you are or have been an important person in a child's life for 1 hour a week and that does make a difference. I have the privilege of reading weekly Progress Reports filled out by our mentors after they finish a session with their Kids Hope student. These connections are so much more than just homework help. Our mentors have heard the sadness of a child's pet dying, an absent father, bullying on the playground and a lack of attention at home. When frustration overwhelms their child the mentors are there to encourage, to help and to give hope. Sometimes the most positive words they hear all day is from their mentor but in time they begin to believe in themselves and this builds up the resilience they need to navigate the difficulties of life.

So thank you from me and from them. What a better world it would be if everyone had a mentor.

As the saying goes "It takes a village to raise a child", and in this world of disconnection this is truer today than ever before. Let me leave you with this quote from Fredrick Douglas, "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men". Praise God for Kids Hope!

See the Kids Hope Bulletin Board for more information on ACEs.

Not very long ago Pastor Gordon commented that people seem to be hanging around for fellowship after worship services more than was the norm years ago. We noted that a number of factors has contributed to this “buzz” of conversation and connection after services: the enlarged gathering area has definitely contributed but also the Second Sunday snacks has done its job too of encouraging more lingering and engagement. But maybe something more cultural and systemic has happened because the last time he noted the people talking together it wasn’t because of food being available that day. I love seeing new people in that mix of social connection after worship. The day I noticed people lingering after worship all of the folks still talking were people who were relatively new within the last year or two. I just heard a visitor affirm again on Sunday what a welcoming place this is...beyond what he expected to receive. Those comments are music to a pastor’s ears!

I also know that is **not** the experience of every person who comes through the doors. I recently heard someone wonder if being a single person was the reason they weren’t welcomed as robustly as they have seen others welcomed in the sanctuary on Sundays (thankfully this person is still here, and I so appreciated the honesty of the feedback!) We also heard feedback from someone who said that they worshipped with us for the first time in the summer and didn’t have very many people talk to them. They stayed with us because of our commitments to inclusion and our stance as a Room for All congregation. They honestly received a much warmer welcome in another congregation that summer and if they had gone by welcome alone would have likely joined that other congregation. They kept coming and when fall came around they experienced us as a totally different church. They were very warmly welcomed and embraced with many people talking to them after worship.

For those of us who have been around for a long time, that second paragraph can feel rather startling. It contradicts who we see ourselves as being. It certainly falls short of who we aim to be as a congregation. This whole question of how to welcome people is complicated. I understand that not everyone wants to be inundated as a visitor....I always try to keep in mind that introverts want connection in a different way, for instance, than those who love a crowd. People have commented over the years that they appreciate the space Hope Church gives newcomers to find their own way into the life of the church rather than getting the full court press when they first arrived. There is obviously a polarity at work here between offering welcome and inclusion and offering freedom and space.

But as we turn the corner into summer mode before the end of May arrives (our first 10am service is on May 26), I thought it would be wise to invite us to keep our attention on those who are new in our midst throughout the summer. Let’s ensure that we greet people and offer them a warm word of welcome. Let’s hang for a few extra minutes even on those gorgeous days when the sun and beach may be calling in order to include someone in conversation if they are desiring it. It makes no difference if they are tourists in town for a single Sunday or people looking for a new church home....the offer of hospitality and warmth and connection is a gift we can share every time someone comes through our doors. I’ll keep my eyes open for those opportunities and invite you to do the same!

Peace,
~Pastor Jill



Hope Church News

May 2019



June, July & August Greeters

The Outreach & Hospitality Ministry

The following list reflects the households assigned to greet for the next three months:

June Greeters

2	Meyer, Mary
9	Mezeske, Richard & Barbara
16	Moreno, Tony & Cassandra
23	Mulder, Ron & Sandy
30	Mullens, Tom & Carol Bechtel

July Greeters

7	Laman, Mark & Cindy
14	Landes, Perry & Pam
21	Leaske, Fred & Charlotte
28	Luidens, Bob & Mary

August Greeters

4	Luidens, Don & Peg
11	Luttikhuizen, Henry & Shari
18	Mackenzie, Kay
25	MacLean, Brad & Christine

Hope Church is now beginning to use SignUpGenius for reminders for Congregational Greeters. You will receive an email reminder from SignUpGenius the Monday before you are scheduled. If you are unable to greet on this date, please swap dates with another person. Swapping can be done through the sign up form link in your email. If you have questions, please email the office at knorris@hopechurchca.org. The SignUpGenius Greeter Schedule for the entire year can be viewed online at tinyurl.com/hopegreeters.

If you are willing to volunteer as a substitute greeter or greet more often than once a year, please contact the office.

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Circle 1 1:30 pm Circle 2 5 pm Community 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	2 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (Central Park Church)	3	4 7 pm Tulip Time Organ Concert
5 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Linda McFadden</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>communion</i> <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 6 pm Fish Club & High Hopes	6 5 pm Executive Committee 6:15 pm Stewardship & Finance	7	8 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 7:35 am Discerning our Future 3 pm Bible Study 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7 pm Circle 4	9 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (Central Park Church)	10	11 8 am Trip to Chicago for Graduation of Rev. Dr. Gordon Wiersma
12 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Karmen Kooyers</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 9:40 am 6th & 7th Grade 9:40 am G.I.F.T. Class 9:40 am High Hopes Unshowered 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Dan Griswold, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12 pm Second Sunday Snacks	13 11 am REST Support Group 5 pm Creation Care 7 pm Consistory	14 10:30 am Coffee at Freedom Village	15 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 12 pm Building & Grounds 1 pm Readers 4 pm Fellowship 6:15 pm Carillon Choir 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	16 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (Central Park Church)	17	18
19 8:30 am Early Worship, <i>Audrianne Hill</i> 9:40 am Church School (children, adults) 9:40 am Chancel Choir 10:45 am Nursery 11 am Worship, <i>Gordon Wiersma, preaching</i> 11:15 am Children in Worship 12:15 pm Pizza Sunday 3:30 pm Fish Club & High Hopes Year End Party	20 6:30 pm Christian Education 7:30 pm Reconciliation	21	22 6:15 am Men's Breakfast Time TBD Kids Hope Year End Celebration 3 pm Bible Study 6:15 pm Carillon Choir	23 10 am Disability Concerns 2-4 pm Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (Central Park Church)	24	25
26 ~ First Summer Sunday 9:50 am Nursery 10 am Worship, <i>Jill Russell, preaching</i> 10:15 am Church School 11:15 am Blood Pressure Clinic	27 Office Closed for Memorial Day	28	29 6:15 am Men's Breakfast 9:30 am Newsletter Assembly 6:15 pm Carillon Choir	30 2-4 pm Hope Church Nurse 7 pm Volleyball (Central Park Church)	31	